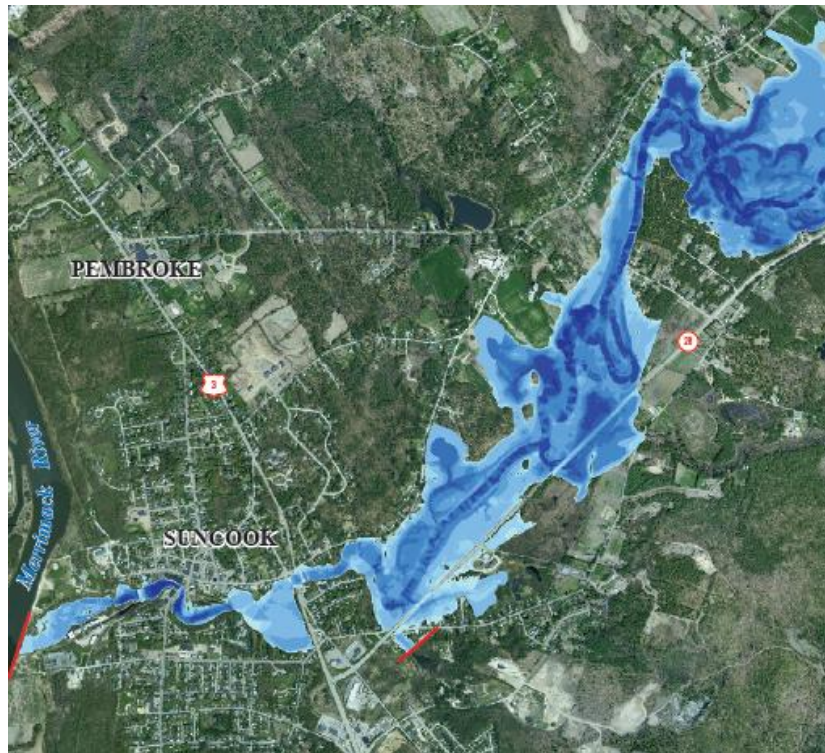




EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

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USGS flood map of the Suncook River, part of a new tool showing areas of greatest flood risk. It shows areas that would be inundated with a 500-year flood event. Darker shades of blue indicate deeper water. See story, page 2.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH – President Obama has declared September as National Preparedness Month, an annual event aimed at encouraging individuals, families and organizations to be prepared for natural and human-caused disasters. By developing their own disaster plans, everyone will be better prepared for the next hurricane, flood or winter storm to strike New Hampshire. In any disaster, emergency resources are stretched thin. Having more people and organizations able to take care of themselves will make the state more resilient. Self-reliance is a New Hampshire tradition. It makes sense to apply that to disaster preparedness. The necessary tools are available at the New Hampshire emergency preparedness website ReadyNH at www.readynh.nh.gov, and the federal emergency preparedness website, www.Ready.gov.

HURRICANE FORECASTERS UP PREDICTIONS – Hurricane forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center and Colorado State University have both slightly increased their predictions of storm activity for the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season from predictions made in June. The researchers attribute the changes in their estimates to wind patterns conducive to storms and warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean. The NOAA forecast of the number of named storms increased from 9-15 in June to 12-17 in early August. The forecast of the number of hurricanes increased from 4-8 in June to 5-8 in August and the number of major hurricanes increased from 1-3 in June to 2-3 in August. The Colorado State forecasters increased their estimates from 13 named storms in June to 14 in August and hurricanes from 5 in June to 6 in August. The Colorado State forecast of major hurricanes, Category 2 or stronger, remained constant at 2.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season continues through Nov. 30, but the greatest hurricane risk for New England is now through mid-September. So far this season there have been eight named storms: Tropical Storms Alberto, Beryl, Debbie, Florence and Isaac and Hurricanes Chris, Ernesto and Gordon. None have affected this region, although TS Isaac may reach the East Coast.

NEW FLOOD MAPPING TOOL HELPS PREPARE FOR FUTURE FLOODS - A new flood preparedness tool that will help emergency managers improve flood warnings and response is now available for a 16.5-mile stretch of the Suncook River that has frequently flooded adjacent homes. On May 15, 2006, the flooded river changed course, increasing the potential flood hazards to communities downstream. The new web-based tool, developed by the U.S. Geological Survey, shows inundation maps to identify where the potential threat of floodwaters is greatest. The maps show the land areas and features that would likely be submerged and the expected depth of the floodwaters when a stream flow gage upstream rises. The maps are part of a national USGS effort to help emergency managers quickly assess evacuation routes, determine when and how to evacuate residents threatened as floodwaters rise, and better focus flood response and recovery efforts.

The USGS completed the Suncook River maps in partnership with HSEM. The maps extend from the [USGS streamgage at Depot Road in North Chichester](#) to the Merrimack River. They include portions of the towns of Chichester, Epsom, Allenstown, and Pembroke and the community of Suncook. The Suncook River flood inundation maps can be accessed at the [USGS Flood Inundation Mapping Science](#) website http://water.usgs.gov/osw/flood_inundation/.

HEPATITIS C TRIGGERS PUBLIC HEALTH INCIDENT – The potential exposure of hundreds of patients treated at Exeter Hospital to hepatitis C from an infected medical technician prompted the state Department of Health and Human Services to declare a Public Health Incident on Aug 9. The declaration was made in order to facilitate the operation of a series of clinics to test for the liver disease. The Division of Public Health Services determined that people treated at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit or one of its main operating rooms between April 1, 2011 and May 25, 2012 needed to be tested, in addition to those who had been treated at the Cardiac Catheterization Unit between October 1, 2010 and May 25, 2012. That added 3,300 to about 1,200 Exeter Hospital patients potentially exposed.

The state, in conjunction with public health regions, set up clinics in Stratham, Plaistow, Manchester, and Rochester from Aug. 10-18. Exeter Hospital also conducted testing clinics and Portsmouth Hospital offered testing as well. People could also go to their own health care providers to be tested. Thirty-three people have so far been identified as having the same strain of hepatitis linked to the outbreak, including the former health care worker accused of spreading the infection.

N.Y. CHEM FIRE PROMPTS REGIONAL CONCERNS – A chemical fire at a transformer recycling facility in Upstate New York triggered protective orders in the vicinity and EOC activations throughout New England. The fire, at the TCI plant in Ghent, N.Y., started at 10:15 p.m. on Aug. 1 and burned for more than 12 hours, releasing a plume of thick, black smoke. Transformer oil contains polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which can break down to toxic dioxins. Columbia County, N.Y., officials ordered the evacuation of a two-mile radius around the plant and Massachusetts authorities issued a shelter-in-place order for communities in nearby Berkshire County. When the fire was extinguished the following afternoon officials determined that there were no air quality issues in the vicinity of the plant and all precautionary measures were cancelled.

New Hampshire's SEOC was opened to monitor the incident. As a precaution, the N.H. National Guard dispatched Civil Support Teams to Keene, Jaffrey and Westmoreland to sample material on hard surfaces exposed to the air. Analysis of those samples showed no deposition from the fire.

CAMP FULLY INVOLVED TRAINS FEMALE FIREFIGHTERS - The N.H. Fire Academy hosted *Camp Fully Involved* during the week of July 29-Aug. 3. This year 28 young women ages 14 (who had completed 8th grade) to 20 attended the program. International cadets came from France, Newfoundland and Toronto. Cadets from the U.S. were from Oregon, California, New York (3), Connecticut (5), Massachusetts (2), Maine (2) and New Hampshire (11). In a first for the program, and perhaps for the first time ever, a deaf cadet participated in fire training. The young woman was accompanied by two interpreters compensated by the Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association. The association also awarded five Sarah Fox Scholarships to cadets. Sarah Fox was an 11-year member of the Portsmouth Fire Department who passed away from breast cancer in December 2011. Her stepdaughter participated in the camp wearing her stepmother's turn-out gear.

FIRE SERVICE AND EMS AWARDS PROGRAM SET - The Emergency Medical Service Committee of Merit has scheduled its annual award ceremony for Monday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord. The purpose of the committee is to recognize acts of heroism and courage by members of the state's fire service and emergency medical service. This year awards will be given to firefighters from 12 fire departments. EMS awards will be given to four recipients.

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH). For information on upcoming training and classes go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>